

Bible Class Notes – Studies in the Book of Acts – Lesson 118

Early Reactions to the Apostles' Message

This week – Who is the Holy Spirit? What does He do? How does He work?

The Lord's last command to His Disciples: “Go ... teach all nations, baptising in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” *Matthew 28v19*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Acts 11 v19-30 (The spread of the Gospel)	
Monday	Acts 12 v1-11 (Paul miraculously delivered)	
Tuesday	Acts 12 v12-25 (The judgement of Herod)	
Wednesday	Romans 8 v1-17 (The help of the Holy Spirit)	
Thursday	Romans 8 v18-28 (The help of the Holy Spirit)	
Friday	Romans 8 v29-39 (More than conquerors)	
Saturday	1 Peter 1 v1-25 (Obeying the truth through the Spirit)	

Important Thought for us Today: The 3rd person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is much misunderstood and the least known. Many have a hazy and distorted idea that He is a vague, ghostly presence Who overtakes us during worship so that our bodies lose control and we go into trances and utter strange sounds. In reality the Holy Spirit's power works quietly within a person's heart. **He touches our consciences and shows us our sin;** making a person who is totally antagonistic towards God convinced that Jesus Christ is indeed their Saviour! **He helps us understand God's Word.** Has a sermon been preached or the Bible read and you felt that the words were especially for you? This is the Holy Spirit speaking to you! Do not ignore this as it's always what we need! **He gives us courage to witness;** the Apostles **only** spoke bravely to the huge crowd **because** the Holy Spirit helped them! **He orders Christians' lives; even in trials and difficulties, so that blessing, comfort and help flow from unexpected sources.** Has this wonderful Holy Spirit, the Comforter, worked in your life to save and guide you?

Hymn 323 details what we should praise the Holy Spirit for in our lives.

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| 1. Creator Spirit! By Whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid;
Come visit every waiting mind
Come pour Thy joys on human kind;
From sin and sorrow set us free,
And give us grace to hear and see. | 3. Create us new, our wills control
Subdue the rebel in our soul;
Chase from our minds the fear of woe,
And peace and love and faith bestow:
And lest again we go astray,
Protect and guide us in the way. |
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Revision - The Work and Person of The Holy Spirit

• God, The Holy Spirit - An Equal Member of the Trinity.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are the three Persons that make up the one, true God. The whole Godhead is to be worshipped and adored equally; unified and equal in authority, holiness and wisdom. All that They do They do in complete agreement with each other. Often, we limit creation to God the Father, but the use of the plural “we” (Elohim) in **Genesis 1v26** shows that the whole Godhead was involved, and the Holy Spirit (**Genesis 1v2**) was active in it. The penmen of the Bible, including the Old Testament prophets, were given the words by the Holy Spirit. (**1 Peter 1v10-12**). It was the Holy Spirit who came upon Mary enabling her to give birth to Emmanuel (God with us) (**Luke 1v35**). He it was Who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead (**Romans 8v11**), and He it was who came to be our Comforter when the Lord Jesus ascended and returned to Heaven. (**John 14v16**)

• God, The Holy Spirit - His Unseen Power.

Like the wind, He is unseen to human eyes (**John 3v8**), and is unrecognised by unbelieving hearts, but His work for and through believers is glorious and powerful. The Lord commanded the disciples to take the good news of forgiveness into the entire world - a task far beyond their human capability unless they received power from on high (**Luke 24v49**). They were given the Holy Spirit to help

• Give the truth - “He will guide you into all Truth” (**John 16v13**)

The disciples were to preach and write the truth of God's message to the whole world - the only way of salvation. How important it was that it should be God's Word and not their own - and the Holy Spirit guided them in this truth, teaching them, bringing to their remembrance all that the Lord Jesus had said to them. (**John 14v26; 16v13**). It is because of Him that the Bible is infallible; without error and is fully trustworthy as it is unchanging and absolutely relevant for all time.

Make sure any Church or Sunday School you attend has as its only rule and guide, the Bible God's holy Word. Beware of modern translations.

▪ Make them witnesses - “After that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.” (**Acts 1v8**)

Peter, who had cowardly denied the Lord to a young girl three times, was given new courage on the Day of Pentecost, when he prayed asking the Holy Spirit to help him speak His word of truth with all boldness. (**Acts 4v29**).

The Holy Spirit will give the courage to witness to disbelieving people if we ask

▪ Convict - of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (**John 16v8**)

It is the Holy Spirit's special work to show us our sin and guilt, changing our will and make us willing to believe, repent, and obey God's Word.

Nothing is impossible with the Holy Spirit; No one is too sinful to be saved.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”